

Testimony: Linda Hapeman, Executive Director Windham Region Transit District

Re: Raised Bill No. 5256

The Windham Region Transit District was formed in accordance with Chapter 103a of the Connecticut General Statutes in 1979 and is comprised of the towns of Windham, Mansfield, Ashford, Columbia and Coventry. Chaplin, Lebanon, Scotland and Willington.

Beginning July 1 of 2022 WRTD will assume management responsibilities for Uconn Shuttle service along with the fixed route and paratransit service we currently provide.

WRTD merging with Uconn has been in the planning stages for several years. The merger does not directly affect the current service we provide and so I don't believe our experience fits the profile of what the task for will be examining.

I believe it is in the best interest of the public to study the current level of service provided by transit agencies and to look for ways to improve. However, I do concur with the testimony of Mr. Comerford;

We are also concerned this committee may only consider transit districts, which compromise a small part of the statewide bus network. If the goal of this bill is to improve coordination of transit services, we suggest it should include state, town and non-profit services funded by the state as well.

WRTD does share the goal of better coordinated and more efficient transit services, and also believe that any improvements should consider travel patterns and needs of the communities served. We also believe it is best determined at the local level.